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REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 48 has been amended, and claims 49, 50, and 53 have been canceled. No claims have been added.

After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-18, 20, 22, 24-27, 29, 30, 48, 51, 52, and 54-56 will remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 48, 49, and 51-53 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Otake (US 4,570,592).

Claim 48 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 50 and intervening claim 49. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 48 should now be allowable.

Accordingly, claims 49 and 50 have been canceled.

Dependent claims 51 and 52 recite additional features of the invention and are therefore believed to be allowable for the same reasons recited above with respect to claim 48 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 53 has been canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

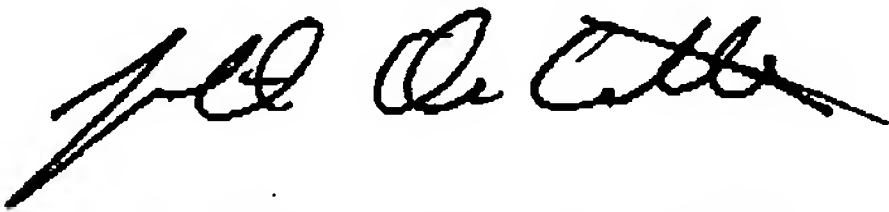
As the Examiner did not indicate whether or not he believes claims 54-56 to be allowable, the Applicants presume these to be allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4, 6-18, 20, 22, 24-27, 29, 30, 48, 51, 52, and 54-56 are now allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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